

The real question is trust. Do the American people trust Democrats to save Medicare—or do they trust Republicans? I believe the answer is clear. Democrats have earned the trust of America on Medicare, and we intend to honor that trust.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? CONSIDER THE ARITHMETIC

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before discussing today's bad news about the Federal debt, how about "another go", as the British put it, with our pop quiz. Remember? One question, one answer.

The question: How many millions of dollars does it take to make a trillion dollars? (While you are thinking about it, bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress that ran up the Federal debt that now exceeds \$4.9 trillion.)

To be exact, as of the close of business yesterday, August 2, the total federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,956,664,786,501.42, of which, on a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$18,815.58.

Mr. President, back to our pop quiz, how many million in a trillion: There are a million million in a trillion.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ENTITLED "EMPOWERMENT: A NEW COVENANT WITH AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 72

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith my Administration's National Urban Policy Report, "Empowerment: A New Covenant With America's Communities," as required by 42 U.S.C. 4503(a). The Report provides a framework for empowering America's disadvantaged citizens and poor communities to build a brighter future for themselves, for their families and neighbors, and for America. The Report is organized around four principles:

First, it links families to work. It brings tax, education and training, housing, welfare, public safety, transportation, and capital access policies together to help families make the transition to self-sufficiency and independence. This linkage is critical to the transformation of our communities.

Second, it leverages private investment in our urban communities. It works with the market and the private sector to build upon the natural assets and competitive advantages of urban communities.

Third, it is locally driven. The days of made in Washington solutions, dictated by a distant Government, are gone. Instead, solutions must be locally crafted, and implemented by entrepreneurial public entities, private sectors, and a growing network of community-based firms and organizations.

Fourth, it relies on traditional values—hard work, family, responsibility. The problems of so many inner-city neighborhoods—family break-up, teen pregnancy, abandonment, crime, drug use—will be solved only if individuals, families, and communities determine to help themselves.

These principles reflect an emerging consensus in the decades-long debate over urban policy. These principles are neither Democratic nor Republican: they are American. They will enable local communities, individuals and families, businesses, churches, community-based organizations, and civic groups to join together to seize the opportunities and to solve the problems in their own lives. They will put the private sector back to work for all families in all communities. I therefore invite the Congress to work with us on a bipartisan basis to implement an empowerment agenda for America's communities and families.

In a sense, poor communities represent an untapped economic opportunity for our whole country. While we work together to open foreign markets abroad to American-made goods and services, we also need to work together to open the economic frontiers of poor communities here at home. By enabling people and communities in genuine need to take greater responsibility for working harder and smarter together, we can unleash the greatest underused source of growth and renewal in each of the local regions that make up our national economy and civic life. This will be good for cities and suburbs, towns and villages, and rural and urban America. This will be good for families. This will be good for the country.

We have undertaken initiatives that seek to achieve these goals. Some seek to empower local communities to help themselves, including Empowerment Zones, Community Development banks, the Community Opportunity Fund, community policing, and enabling local schools and communities to best meet world-class standards. And some seek to empower individuals and

families to help themselves, including our expansion of the earned-income tax cut for low- and moderate-income working families, and our proposals for injecting choice and competition into public and assisted housing and for a new G.I. Bill for America's Workers.

I am determined to end Federal budget deficits, and my balanced budget proposal shows that we can balance the budget without abandoning the investments that are vital to the security and prosperity of the country, now and in the future. I am confident that, working together, we can build common ground on an empowerment agenda while putting our fiscal house in order. I will do everything in my power to make sure this happens.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 3, 1995.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1225. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt employees who perform certain court reporting duties from the compensatory time requirements applicable to certain public agencies, and for other purposes.

At 1:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2161. An act to extend authorities under the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994 until October 1, 1995, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-270. A resolution adopted by the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska relative to the Tongass National Forest; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-271. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

"SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

"Whereas, the exploration and development of mineral resources in the United States has provided a significant benefit to the residents of the United States; and

"Whereas, the mining industry of the United States provides steady, high-paying jobs for thousands of Americans, and through its operations pays millions of dollars in taxes; and

"Whereas, the mining industry in the State of Nevada makes significant contributions to the strength of the economy of this state; and

"Whereas, the basic tenets of the General Mining Law of 1872, 30 U.S.C. §§22 et seq., continue to be of critical importance in encouraging the development of hard rock minerals; and

"Whereas, under existing laws and regulations, the various regulatory agencies of the Federal Government and of the several states have substantial authority to control and monitor effectively the impact of mining and mining exploration; and

"Whereas, states located in the western United States have enacted comprehensive regulatory programs, enforced in conjunction with federal agencies for land management, which set forth the criteria for issuing permits to, and the exploration, development and reclamation of, mining operations and which contain provisions for the protection of surface and ground water, the designation of uses of land after mining operations are completed, the availability of financial resources and public notice and review of decisions made concerning mining operations; and

"Whereas, a bill has been introduced in the Senate of the United States, S. 506, which proposes to reform extensively the laws governing mining in the United States in a manner that would protect the valuable mining industry; and

"Whereas, S. 506 is a bipartisan bill which is supported by the entire Nevada Congressional Delegation; and

"Whereas, if enacted, S. 506 would raise millions of dollars for the treasury of the United States, require mining operations to comply with all applicable federal and state environmental laws and standards for reclamation, establish a program for abandoned mines, abolish the moratorium currently imposed on the issuance of patents and require the Secretary of the Interior to resume the processing of pending applications for patents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the Nevada Legislature hereby expresses its support for the activities and operations of all mining industries in Nevada; and be it further

Resolved, That the Nevada Legislature hereby expresses its support for the provisions of S. 506 which reasonably and progressively reforms the existing federal laws governing mining; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval."

POM-272. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Gig Harbor, Washington relative to spent nuclear fuel; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-273. A resolution adopted by the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska relative to the Clean Water Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-274. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

"SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 26

"Whereas, recent studies performed by the Nevada Department of Transportation indicate that approximately 8,000 vehicles pass over Hoover Dam daily and that approximately 70 percent of those vehicles are commercial and other vehicles using U.S. Highway No. 93 as a conduit to Las Vegas, rather than to bring tourists and visitors to Hoover Dam; and

"Whereas, the heavy traffic flow over Hoover Dam and through Boulder City has resulted in significant increases in the level of

air pollution and the number of traffic accidents in the area; and

"Whereas, a study cited by the *Las Vegas Sun* on November 11, 1991, indicated that an average of 1,434 tons of hazardous materials, including gasoline, diesel fuel, hydrochloric acid, cyanide and chlorine, are transported daily over Hoover Dam and through Boulder City; and

"Whereas, such a heavy flow of large trucks transporting highly flammable or hazardous materials, or both, significantly increases the chances that a major accident could occur near Hoover Dam or in Boulder City; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of Nevada hereby urges Congress to take all necessary actions to alleviate the problems caused by the heavy commercial traffic over Hoover Dam and through Boulder City, including, without limitation, the construction of a highway bypass around Hoover Dam and Boulder City which would connect U.S. Highway No. 93 in Nevada to Interstate Highway No. 40 in California as a means of:

1. Diverting the heavy flow of trucks transporting highly flammable or hazardous materials, or both, and the heavy flow of regular traffic from traveling over Hoover Dam and through Boulder City;

2. Preventing further air pollution in the area;

3. Reducing the number of traffic accidents in the area;

4. Reserving the portion of U.S. Highway No. 93 over Hoover Dam to accommodate the traffic of tourists and visitors to the dam; and

5. Preventing the pollution of the Colorado River from spill into the river related to the heavy flow of such traffic;

and be it further
Resolved, That the Legislature hereby directs the Nevada Department of Transportation to cooperate with the appropriate public agencies to accomplish the construction of the highway bypass between U.S. Highway No. 93 in Nevada and Interstate Highway No. 40 in California, or the improvement of U.S. Highway No. 95 in Nevada and California, if those projects are approved by Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate of the State of Nevada prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation and the Director of the Nevada Department of Transportation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval."

POM-275. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

"JOINT RESOLUTION

"Whereas, section 211(k)(1) of the federal Clean Air Act required the United States Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations establishing requirements for reformulated gasoline that reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds and toxics to the greatest extent achievable "taking into consideration the cost of achieving such emission reductions, any non-air quality and other air quality related health and environmental impacts and energy requirements"; and

"Whereas, the Clean Air Act requires that such gasoline contain a minimum oxygen content of 2.0% by weight; and

"Whereas, one of the ingredients commonly used to meet the 2.0% oxygen content

standard, namely methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, is suspected of increasing health risks due to contamination of water and air; and

"Whereas, the increased oxygen content decreases vehicle performance; and

"Whereas, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has the authority and a duty to control the contents of gasoline; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency revise the regulations for certification of reformulated gasoline to minimize or prohibit use of oxygenates and to achieve the statutory goals of reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds and toxics by means other than increasing the oxygen content of gasoline; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this Memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Carol Browner, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation. The Secretary of State shall send a copy of this Memorial to the governor and the legislative leaders of each state that is a member of the ozone transport region, created in Section 184 of the federal Clean Air Act."

POM-276. A resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Pamlico County, North Carolina relative to tobacco; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THURMOND (for himself, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 1115. A bill to prohibit an award of costs, including attorney's fees, or injunctive relief, against a judicial officer for action taken in a judicial capacity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EXON:

S. 1116. A bill entitled "The Broadcast and Cable Voluntary Standards and Practice Act"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. REID, Mr. KERREY, Mr. FORD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. ROBB):

S. 1117. A bill to repeal AFDC and establish the Work First Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. GLENN):

S. 1118. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of bone mass measurements for certain individuals under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1119. A bill to define the circumstances under which earthquake insurance requirements may be imposed by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation on a specifically targeted State or area; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. PACKWOOD, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr.